Calamity management in the country

1077. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to World Bank report out of 31 States of India, 22 are regarded as disaster prone and 55 per cent of the country's land is vulnerable to earthquakes, eight per cent to cyclones and five per cent to floods;

(b) whether the natural disasters during 1996--2001 had caused a loss of 13.8 billion dollars and eroded two per cent of GDP;

(c) if so, what are Government's assessment thereto; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Centre in collaboration with the State Governments for calamity management throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND) : (a) India has been highly vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its geo-climatic conditions. Floods, droughts, cyclones and earthquakes are a recurrent phenomena in the country. 54% of the area in the country is prone to earthquake, about 40 million hectares of landmass is exposed to floods and large segments of the coastal areas are vulnerable to cyclone.

(b) and (c) This being primarily a State subject, the Government of India have not carried out an assessment of the losses suffered by the State on account of all types of natural calamities. However, natural calamities annually cause considerable losses-in terms of human lives, and community and private assets.

(d) The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken a number of initiatives for strengthening the disaster management mechanism in the country. These include capacity building in emergency response; mitigation measures for earthquakes, cyclones and other disasters; strengthening of fire services; making disaster response training an integral part of training of the Central Para Military Forces; awareness generation; building disaster awareness in the curriculum for schools; making disaster

mitigation technologies an integral part of engineering curricula; induction/in-service training to officers of All India Services and to other Government functionaries down to the level of village; upgradation of early warning systems and mainstreaming of mitigation measures in the planning and development process.

NHRC's visit to Gujarat

1078. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHRC who visited Gujarat recently has submitted any report to Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Overcrowding of Central prisons in country

1079. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Ministry of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Central prisons are overcrowded surpassing its limit of intake;

(b) whether it is also a fact that basic amenities provided to the prisoners are adversely affected due to overcrowding;

(c) the reasons for this situation;

(d) what steps are being taken to rectify this situation; and

(e) whether Government propose to construct any additional prisons to control the situation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The overcrowding of Prisons which impacts adversely upon the basic amenities provided to prisoners is attributable to inadequate prison infrastructure and increasing number of undertrial prisoners.